

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-55. Please add claims 56-64 are added.

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) A data communication method comprising:
providing a data card including a magnetic material;
inserting the data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with the magnetic material of the data card;
moving the data card in a linear first direction through rollers of the data unit to a first position;
moving the data card along a first path from the first position toward the data head;
communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while holding the data card stationary and moving the data head along a second path parallel to the first direction and perpendicular to the second path.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising cleaning the data card within the data unit.

58. (New) A data communication method comprising:
providing a data card including a magnetic material;
inserting the data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with the magnetic material of the data card;
moving the data card in a linear first direction through rollers of the data unit;

communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a first track parallel to the first direction.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the linear movement of the data card in the first direction is stopped upon reaching a first position, and further comprising:

moving the data card linearly from the first position toward the data head prior to the step of communicating signals.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising indexing the data card after communicating signals along the first track, and then communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second track parallel to the first track.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the data card is indexed in a direction perpendicular to the first track.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein after communicating signals along the first track, but before communicating signals along the second track, the data head is moved beyond a first edge of the data card.

63. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the data unit includes a data head support surface positioned adjacent the first edge of the data card during the communication of signals, wherein the data head is positioned over the data support surface during the indexing of the data card.

64. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic

material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second track parallel to the first track.